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REMARKS

The applicants acknowledge and appreciate receiving a copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed on 20 November 2003. However, a second supplemental amendment was filed on 3 February 2004. The applicants have not yet received an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed with the second supplemental IDS. Since the second supplemental IDS was filed only about one month before the final office action was issued, it may be that the second supplemental IDS was not available to the examiner at the time of the final rejection. In any event, the applicants respectfully request an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 that was filed on 3 February 2003 at the examiner's earliest convenience.

Claims 1-11 are pending. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In an interview held on 8 September 2004, the examiner suggested removing the phrase "capable of" from claim 1 to make claim 1 more positive. Further, minor grammatical changes in claim 1 were discussed. The applicants have amended claim 1 in the manner suggested by the examiner.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the patent to Beauseigneur *et al.* The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

As stated in the interview of 8 September 2004, the patent to Beauseigneur *et al.* fails to show a "... ceramic substrate and a multitude of pores or elements that support a catalyst component directly on the surface of the ceramic substrate ..." as claimed in claim 1. The Beauseigneur *et al.* patent describes, from column 3, line 64 to column 4, line 4, that "A network

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of open pores is distributed through the walls. The walls contain washcoat particles bonded to them, and all of those particles are of colloidal particle size and selected from the group consisting of alumina, rare earth oxide, silica, and zirconia. Over 50% of the washcoat particles contained by the walls are deposited within the pores on the surfaces of the pores (which are internal surfaces of the walls) and substantially throughout the walls." The patent to Beauseigneur *et al.* also describes, in column 10, from line 48 to line 54, that "Putting the washcoat and catalyst into the pores of the substrate not only locks in the catalyst, preventing the attrition of the metal (such as noble metal) over the lifetime of the converter, but it also reduces the wall thickness of the support, resulting in low back pressure and improved engine performance."

In summary, the patent to Beauseigneur *et al.* teaches that washcoat particles are put into the pores and that the catalyst is placed over the washcoat particles, not directly on the support. Further, the Beauseigneur *et al.* patent teaches that all of the washcoat particles are of colloidal particle size (about from 1 nm to 200 nm) and selected from the group consisting of alumina, rare earth oxide, silica, and zirconia, making it clear that the washcoat particles are not a noble metal catalyst. Accordingly, the cited invention is clearly different from the present invention, in which noble metal particles are directly supported on the surface of the ceramic. Therefore, claims 1-11 are not anticipated by the patent to Beauseigneur *et al.*

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beauseigneur *et al.* in view of Strehlau *et al.* and Uchikawa *et al.* The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

As mentioned above in the discussion of the section 102 rejection, the patent to Beauseigneur *et al.* fails to show a "ceramic substrate and a multitude of pores or elements that

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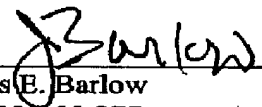
support a catalyst component directly on the surface of the ceramic substrate. Neither the patent to Strehlau *et al.* nor the patent to Uchikawa *et al.* supplies what is missing in the patent to Beauseigneur *et al.* Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-11 under section 103 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11 were provisionally rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-41 of co-pending application 09/960,498 to Tanaka *et al.* Without conceding that this rejection has merit and to facilitate the prosecution of this application, a Terminal Disclaimer is attached to this paper. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the forgoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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